

PRESS RELEASE No 70

SOUTHERN APPROACH

DAS, FBI AND DEA DISMANTLE AN INTERNATIONAL RING OF DRUG
DEALERS AND MONEY LAUNDERERS

4 COLOMBIANS WERE APPREHENDED FOR EXTRADITION PURPOSES,
ANOTHER 11 PEOPLE WERE DETAINED IN THE UNITED STATES

In a joint operation between DAS, FBI, and the DEA a ring of drug dealers and money launderers was dismantled. According to the American Authorities they would had moved more than 25 million dollars as a result of illegal activities.

According to the investigations the shipment of cocaine was the property of a criminal organization led by SALOMON CAMACHO MORA, a well known Colombian drug dealer who according to United States intelligence agencies was the business partner of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers and Alberto Orlandez Gamboa alias Caracol and he was one of the persons who finances the paramilitary groups of Carlos Castaño.

To identify the members of this illegal ring, the FBI was able to infiltrate undercover agents who determined the drug trafficking activities and the various forms of money laundering utilized.

The special support unit of the management operation of DAS, gathered documents to prove the investigation, witnesses, recordings and the location of the members of the organization residing in Colombia.

In our country 4 people were apprehended who are part of the ring and they had an arrest warrant pending against them for extradition purposes. There were a total of 14 raids in different cities, 6 in Bogota, 4 in Barranquilla, 3 in Cartagena and 1 in Bucaramanga.

The detainees for extradition purposes are ANTONIO JOSE GUZMAN ANGULO alias TONY, CARLOS AUGUSTO DIAZ RODRIGUEZ, TERESA IGLESIAS-HERNANDEZ and JULIO CESAR VILLAREAL ARZUZA.

In the United States 10 more Colombians were apprehended and one Dominican, in different operations in Queens-New York and Florida-Miami. The detainees in the United States are:

ANADILLA CARDOSO
HENRY VALENCIA GALLEGO
HERNANDO MARTINEZ alias el Negro
RAMON PARADA MARTINEZ
OSWALDO MARTINEZ alias el Gordo
LUZ MARINA VARGAS DELAROSA
CARLOS ERNESTO CORREDOR GARZON
MILTON MIRANDA
JANET MIRANDA CRISTANCHO
IVAN ARANGO
SANTIAGO ALVAREZ alias Licenciado (Dominican)

THE SOUTHERN APPROACH OPERATION has not yet concluded these 11 arrests among which are 7 Colombians and 4 Dominicans. All of them accused of being part of this ring of drug dealers and money launderers.

Among the fugitives are the following Colombians SALOMON CAMACHO MORA, leader of the organization, MANUEL DEL RISCO TORRENTE, MARCOS ESPINOZA DELEON, ROBERTO FRANCIS CHICRE MALKUN, HECTOR FABIO GARCIA, OSCAR AUGUSTO HERNANDEZ and alias ELIZABELTH ZAPATA.

During the course of the investigation and the operations nearly 3 million dollars were confiscated from the criminals and bank accounts and bank activities were identified which will be subsequently frozen by the authorities.

Bogota, December 16 of 2002